

# STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

## PENN'A STATE

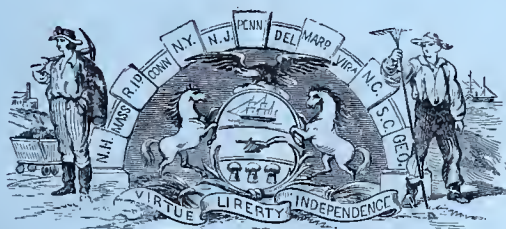
# Lunatic Hospital

IN REGARD TO

Certain Charges of the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania,

WITH AN

## APPENDIX.



HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH PRINT.



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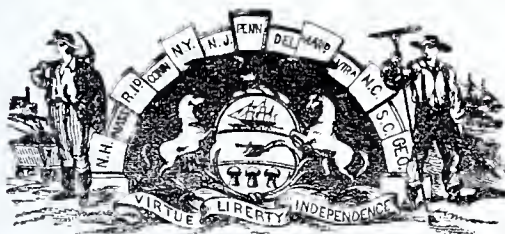
# Penn'a State Lunatic Hospital,

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of the State of Pennsylvania,

WITH AN

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HARRISBURG:

GEORGE BERGNER, PRINTER AND STATIONER.  
1874.

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## *Statement of Trustees.*

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

GENTLEMEN:—In a pamphlet, entitled a Plea for the Insane of the Prisons and Poor Houses of Pennsylvania, signed by the members of the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania, the line of policy adopted by the Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital and the management of the institution is so entirely misapprehended and consequently misrepresented, and a course of policy, so completely at variance with what they have so frequently stated in their published reports, is charged upon them, that the Trustees feel themselves in duty bound to correct the erroneous impressions conveyed in that pamphlet, and give to the Legislature and to the public a clear statement of the manner in which they have endeavored to manage the trust committed to them. As they simply ask for justice and fair dealing, the statement made will embrace only a plain recital of facts and extracts drawn from the published reports of the Hospital, and from the minutes of the Board, in the briefest manner compatible with a clear understanding of the subject involved. The points which we desire especially to set forth for explanation and proof, are the following:

1st. That the Trustees at all times, until the wards of the Hospital became crowded, received all patients who were brought to the Hospital.

2d. That when the wards of the Hospital became crowded, the Directors of the Poor of the counties, and the Overseers of the Poor of the townships, were distinctly and uniformly told that any recent cases they might have in charge, would be admitted at any time without waiting for the formality of writing, but that, as the law distinctly gave the preference to recent cases, cases of many years standing could not be received.

3d. That patients have not been sent away by the Trustees "if not speedily curable," but, except in certain cases to be mentioned after-

wards, were retained as long as the Directors or Overseers could be induced to leave them.

4th. That preference has never been given to paying patients; but they were received with the distinct understanding, expressed in words in the bonds signed by the friends who were responsible for their expenses, that they were to be removed whenever required to do so by the Superintendent.

5th. That of the class of paying patients, a very limited number only could be classed under the term rich; but the great majority either had no means of their own and had to be supported by their friends, or had limited incomes which allowed them only to pay the lowest rate of board, and clothe them, and many could not pay more than the amount charged to the public authorities.

6th. That the Trustees of this Hospital have, year after year in their published reports, urged the great and pressing necessity of more hospital accommodation for the insane poor of Pennsylvania.

7th. That persons acquitted of crime, committed while laboring under mental disorder, and consequently irresponsible, have not been refused admission into the Hospital until the wards became crowded, and then only on the provision of the law in regard to recent cases having the preference.

8th. That in the first report of the Hospital, as in a great many subsequent reports, the Trustees have urged the establishment of a separate institution for insane criminals, meaning by that term a peculiarly dangerous class of criminals in the jails and penitentiaries; and also that they presented to the Legislature of 1863 a memorial praying for the establishment of such an institution.

We propose to take up these propositions in succession and show from the record that the law has, in all cases governing admission, been strictly adhered to, but that provision of the law, giving permission to send patients to the places from which they were sent to this Hospital, has not been rigidly executed, as has been alleged; and that if the poorhouses of the counties and the jails in different parts of the State have been crowded with insane persons, the fault does not lie with the Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital.

As the three first propositions relate essentially to the same subject in different aspects, they will be treated together for greater convenience and conciseness of statement.

In the first report of this Board made in January, 1852, three months after the opening of the Hospital, occur these sentences:



"It is to be hoped that the public authorities will promptly avail themselves of the munificent provision, being made by the State, for the custody and treatment of all the indigent insane within her borders, and in accordance with what they believe to have been the spirit actuating the Legislature in all its movements in reference to this subject, as well as in conformity to public sentiment."

"The Board of Trustees, in arranging the price of board chargeable to counties and townships for their indigent insane, have fixed it at so low a rate as to render the cost, even of their permanent support in the hospital, no objection to their enjoying the important advantages which it offers."

"This low rate of board—two dollars per week—at which patients who are a public charge are received, is well-known to the Trustees to be much below the actual cost of treating the insane in any well-conducted institution in this section of country; but the experience of neighboring States has shown conclusively, that when a different system has been tried, it has proved unsatisfactory and an enlightened public sentiment has soon demanded, that it should be changed for one that seemed more likely to secure to those for whose benefit it was specially intended, the full advantages of the provisions made by the State, and that the deficiency of income, whatever it might be, resulting from this cause, should be made up by a special appropriation from the State Treasury. The board for patients, supported by their friends, has been fixed at three dollars a week, or about what we suppose will be the average weekly cost of each patient, when the institution is fairly in operation, with at least one hundred patients, while a higher rate may be required in cases that demand unusual attendance, and when the means of the patient are ample to remunerate the hospital for the expense to which it is subjected."

"Insanity is a disease from which no age or class can claim exemption, and the State Hospital, while nobly providing for those who are visited with the double affliction of poverty and insanity, will also be resorted to by citizens from every walk of life. It becomes us, therefore, to see that it is fully provided with every needful means, and so liberally managed that no one need hesitate to commit to its wards his dearest friends, should insanity ever overtake them."

At the meeting of the Trustees, on January 15th, 1853, the following preamble and resolution were considered and adopted:

WHEREAS, Certain counties in the Commonwealth, that have made provision for their insane paupers in buildings connected with their

almshouses, decline sending any of that class to the State Lunatic Hospital, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Superintendent, with the sanction of the President and Secretary, is hereby authorized to receive such patients, at the same rates as would have been charged to the counties, whenever satisfactory evidence is furnished to them that they are entirely without means of support, and the usual bond, with sufficient security for the payment of board, is furnished by their friends."

In their report for the same year 1853, they use, the following language: "Reliable statistical information renders it quite certain that there are at the present time within the bounds of the Commonwealth more than enough cases of insanity, unprovided with the comforts proper for their situation, and subjected to no regular treatment, to fill the whole hospital. A proper regard to the best interests of the afflicted, no less than a wise economy demands that all these should be promptly sent to the State Hospital. No fact is better established than that the community save largely by having all their insane placed under the best kind of treatment, and persevering in it so long as there is the slightest prospect of their being restored. With the low rate of board at which county patients are received, it is not creditable to the wisdom or benevolence of any district in Pennsylvania, that any portion of its insane should henceforth be found in the common poorhouses, or what is even worse, confined in wretched outhouses, or in the barred and dreary rooms of private dwellings."

We desire to call special attention to the reason given for the passage of the resolution cited above, that the public authorities *DECLINE* to send their insane to the hospital.

How could the Trustees overcome this reluctance on the part of the public authorities further than by striving to enlighten them on the subject of insanity, its character as a disease capable of treatment and of restoration if taken in the early stages?

It was not in their power to remove the prejudices of generations and induce them to act in such a manner as would best secure the interests of the insane.

As those who held the offices of overseers and directors were each year giving place to new men, those who had received the proper views were continually giving place to men who had never had the opportunity of knowing anything on the subject, and by the time their prejudices were removed and they were prepared to act in the proper spirit, they were displaced by others with whom the same pro-



cess had to be repeated. Add to this the consideration that the community expected those elected to such positions to spend the money entrusted to them in the most rigidly parsimonious manner possible, and some clue may be had to the reason why no more insane persons were sent to the Hospital by the Directors of the Poor. Time and again have overseers come to the Hospital saying that the people were complaining of the expense and inquiring if their patients could not be kept in a private family who would take them at less expense.

The difficulty always has been, and still exists, to induce people to believe and fully realize the fact that the great majority of insane persons can only be restored after a prolonged course of treatment, that as the causes which undermine the health and thus give rise to insanity may have been for many months in operation, a period equally long, or even in most cases longer, may be required to produce such a change in the system as to result in the healthy action of the nervous system.

This discouraging state of affairs still interferes with the admission of patients into the Hospital. The Directors say expressly in many cases, "we wish to have this patient under your care for three months," and are unwilling to continue them longer or even bring them if they think they must stay longer. Every effort has been made, which plain statements and information as to the great advantage and economy of early treatment and probable prompt restoration could give, to impress upon all the public authorities, concerned in the care and treatment of the insane, that it was to their interest pecuniarily and economically to place their patients in the Hospital at the earliest date and continue them there until they were fully restored. In many cases these arguments have been heeded and acted on, but in a large majority they still persist that the insane can be more cheaply kept in poorhouses and insist on their removal against the remonstrances, in very many cases, of the medical officers of the Hospital. Only recently an application was made for the reception for a few months of a number of insane persons from one of the large county poorhouses. Experience having shown that when permission to bring them was given without any limitation, the most careless and troublesome chronic patients were always sent and kept in this Hospital long enough to be trained into better habits, the answer returned was that if they would allow the Superintendent and Physician to make the selection, all they desired to send would be taken, the object being to select that number of recent cases and give them

a course of treatment and thus a fair opportunity for restoration. The offer was declined.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on July 11, 1861, the Superintendent and Physician made the following report; "In order to obtain room for the number of recent cases now pressing for admission and in compliance with the act passed at the last session of the Legislature, I would recommend for removal to the counties from which they were sent the following persons, (twenty-two in number, 16 males, 6 females). These cases are all of many years standing and present no reasonable prospect of improvement, and some of them have been in the Hospital many years. In making these selections I have been guided in part by the fact that in these counties poorhouses exist having accommodations for the insane, while in a large number of the counties no accommodations whatever are provided, and the patients must either be kept here or be at large in the community."

After due deliberation and full consideration, the Board unanimously passed the following resolution:

*"Resolved,* That the patients named in the report of the Superintendent as incurable be returned, under the provisions of the third section of the act of Assembly, passed in the session of 1861, to the places from whence they were sent to this Institution, and that the Superintendent be authorized to return, at his discretion, from time to time, any or all the patients referred to in his report."

The records show that of the persons so recommended, eighteen were returned, at varying intervals during the three following years, to the places from which they were sent to the Hospital; one eloped, two were removed by friends, one in 1866, and one died in 1866.

No other persons have been directed to be removed under the Act of Assembly, approved April 8th, 1861.

On page 21 of the Plea for the Insane, near the bottom of the page will be found the following sentence: "and of the four hundred and eight remaining on December 31, 1872, there were one hundred and seventy-nine supported by 'public authorities' and two hundred and twenty-nine by friends of patients."

The daily register of the number of patients in the Hospital gives the figures thus:

Dec. 31, 1872, 399 patients.

Sept. 30, 1873, 408 patients.

In December, 1872, sixty-three patients, of whom four were supported by the friends and fifty-nine by the public authorities, and all

belonging to that section of the State were sent to the State Hospital for the Insane at Danville.

Previous to that date there had always been a preponderance of patients supported by the public authorities, sometimes greater and sometimes less, as is shown by the following table for 1872 and 1873:

	PUBLIC.	PRIVATE.
January 1, 1872, .....	240	213
April 1, 1872, .....	251	224
July 1, 1872, .....	247	237
October 1, 1872, .....	248	218
January 1, 1873, .....	185	214
April 1, 1873, .....	180	218
July 1, 1873, .....	190	206
October 1, 1873, .....	190	218
January 1, 1874, .....	198	219

Special attention is requested to the change in public patients from Oct. 1, 1872, to Jan. 1, 1873, caused by the transfer of so many to the Hospital at Danville.

The following table will give the number of public and private patients committed each quarter, from Oct. 1, 1871, to Oct. 1, 1873.

	PUBLIC.	PRIVATE.
October 1871 to January 1872, .....	25	30
January 1872 to April 1872, .....	20	38
April 1872 to July 1872, .....	13	41
October 1872 to January 1873, .....	10	32
January 1873 to April 1873, .....	8	28
April 1873 to July 1873, .....	14	25
July 1873 to October 1873, .....	10	31

It should be borne in mind that at least one-third of the public patients came from the district now set apart for the Hospital at Danville.

#### PROPOSITIONS FOUR AND FIVE.

In regard to paying patients the Trustees have always construed the phrase "paying patients, whose friends can pay their expenses and who are not chargeable upon the townships or counties," in the just, liberal and humane spirit in which they believed the Legislature meant to deal with the insane, as will be seen by reference to the resolution quoted above. They believed that the term "paying" was to be qualified by the other part of the sentence, as if the sentence read thus, "paying patients who are not chargeable upon the town-

ships or counties, and whose friends can (are able or willing) pay their expenses, shall pay according to the terms directed by the Trustees," and it is a fact amply proved by the reports of the Hospital for more than twenty years, that the rates for paying or private patients have always been kept at a point which would enable that class who have limited or very moderate means to enjoy the benefit of hospital treatment.

In their report for 1856 the Trustees say: "During the year just closed, the Hospital has been able to receive all suitable applicants for admission, but the period must be near, when its wards will be so crowded, that only a portion of those requiring its care can be admitted. Even at the present time, it is well-known to those who have examined the subject, that no inconsiderable number of insane, in different parts of the Commonwealth, are still retained at their own homes, or in public establishments, not calculated for those laboring under this form of affliction, and there subjected to restraints and privations, and to a species of treatment, precluding every rational hope of restoration, and which, even if there is no prospect of a cure, are a reproach to any Christian community. It would seem desirable for the fair fame of this noble State, and as simple justice to those of our fellow beings, whose afflictions so completely debar them from acting for themselves, that the laws should require the courts, upon simple declaration of such a state of things by humane individuals, to compel the friends of patients, when under their care, or the public authorities, when the friends are unable or unwilling to assume the charge, to send them at once to the State Lunatic Hospital, and to provide for them there as long as their mental condition makes them suitable subjects for such an institution."

In the report of the Trustees for 1863 occur these sentences bearing on this subject:

"The large majority of those supported by their friends, or from their own property, belong to that class of the community who are able to live in comparative comfort so long as they are in health. Insanity seizes on some members of the family, and all the tender care of relatives only adds to the suspicious mind fresh fuel for the delusions which haunt it, and a removal is demanded by every dictate of prudence and friendship. At the present rate fixed by the Board for private patients, they are able, with great effort and often by considerable sacrifice, to place their afflicted friends in the Hospital for treatment with every prospect of restoration. A slight increase of the rate of board would prove a virtual exclusion of a large number



of this class, a subjection of the family to the alarm and anxiety consequent on the excited, irresponsible acts of one of its members, and a serious detriment to their pursuit of their daily duties and consequent means of support. In addition to this there is also a class who have a fixed income just sufficient, with the most careful management, to provide for their maintenance, and who can be best cared for in the Hospital, and thus relieve their friends of a great amount of attention and anxiety."

"It is certainly an act of great benevolence, and cannot fail to be a source of great gratification and pleasurable reflection to all who may have added their influence, to provide the means by which all these classes may be afforded the opportunity of enjoying the advantages of hospital treatment without increasing their claims on their relatives, friends or neighbors."

Taking the private or paying patients who were in the Hospital on December 31st, 1873, as illustrative of these sentences, let us see how the matter stands. By the record there were at that date 219 paying or private patients. Of these 109 had really no means of their own, but were supported by friends—by the members of their families combining to meet the expenses—or partly by charitable societies and partly by friends; 34 had incomes which allowed them to pay the amount charged to the public authorities and clothe them, and some had not even that amount; while 55 paid the amount charged as the lowest rate fixed for private patients (\$3.50 per week), leaving 30 who paid more than that rate.

The principle which has always actuated the Trustees in regulating this matter, has been to allow the room which the public authorities were not willing to occupy with the patients in their charge, to be occupied by a class who were, so far as this world's goods were concerned, worth nothing, but who had friends who were willing to pay their expenses and thus prevent their becoming a public charge. This they conceived wise and just for two reasons: that it preserved the self-respect and independence of those thus benefited, and relieved the community of the tax and burden which would necessarily have been laid upon it had these persons been thrown on the care of the public authorities. Besides it allowed such persons to be placed under treatment at a much earlier date, because, while the public authorities were waiting to take charge of them and then make the arrangements for bringing them to the Hospital, much precious time would be lost, and by the early treatment received the patients were in most instances restored, and enabled to return to their usual duties



and assist in bearing the burden of the support of their families and helping the community, instead of being themselves a burden on it. Some persons may have considered this the wrong view to take, but with the patients and their friends appealing to be relieved and have proper care and treatment, the Trustees could not reconcile it to their views of duty to the afflicted, and to what they believed the true meaning and intention of the Legislature and the community at large, to say to these people, "You are not poor enough to be entitled to the benefits of the Hospital." The response certainly would have been, "If we, who have nothing or comparatively nothing, are not indigent—and our families certainly will be unless you help us—what do you mean by the term?"

Moreover, would it have been just and right to have compelled families to retain in their own midst those whose minds were so much disordered as to have lost all affection for those most endeared to them by the ties of blood and relationship; to endanger their own health by the constant care and anxiety necessary properly to attend to them; their lives by the wayward, irresponsible acts of the patient, and the community at large by the apprehension of some fearful act of violence,—simply because the public authorities had those in their charge who should be placed in the hospital, but were unwilling to place them there?

We have yet to learn that evil should be done to one class that good may come to another.

We forbear to enlarge on this subject, because the great law of humanity is so deeply rooted in the hearts of the people at large that we do not believe any sophistry or zeal for one class against another can ever dislodge it or so blunt the keen edge of sympathy, kindness and love as to cause them to say to those who are administering a trust for them, you must not do what will give the greatest happiness and comfort to all who come to you for help and relief.

#### PROPOSITIONS SIX AND SEVEN.

In their report for 1858 they use this language: "It is greatly to be regretted that there should ever be diffienlty experienced by any class of our citizens in finding promptly accomodations of the best kind for the treatment of this—one of the saddest of all human maladies. No argument ought to be required at the present day to prove that it is to the best interests of every State, to provide ample means of a high character for the care and treatment of all her insane; to restore them to society and to usefulness, if that is possible, and if

that may not be, at least to shield them from the cruel exposure of their infirmities; to remove the worst features of their disease, and to protect the community from the dangers incident to such irresponsible persons being allowed to be at large."

The Trustees have uniformly and persistently, year after year, urged the necessity of greater accommodation for all classes of the insane poor of this Commonwealth, for proof of which they refer to the extracts from their reports printed in the appendix.

In the same extracts will also be found the proof of the seventh proposition, "that persons acquitted of crime committed while laboring under mental disorder, and consequently irresponsible, have not been refused admission into the Hospital until the wards became crowded, and then only on the provision of the law in regard to recent cases having the preference.

#### PROPOSITION EIGHT.

In regard to insane criminals, the following extract will show the view entertained by them in 1852: "There are at the present time in the State Penitentiaries and in the different jails of the Commonwealth, a considerable number of insane (alleged criminals) who ought to be transferred to the State Hospital as soon as its buildings are completed. There are also in these institutions a few who, from their peculiarly dangerous character and the utter hopelessness of benefiting them by treatment, can never with propriety become inmates of the Hospital. To protect the community and the ordinary insane from the dangerous propensities of these individuals, it would be necessary to introduce into our wards intended for the treatment of disease, all the most repulsive features of a prison, or that a separate building, having strictly a prison character, should be erected upon the grounds. Some legislation will be required before any of these cases can be admitted, and some mode of proceeding should be adopted which will prevent any but proper cases being received from these sources."

Attention is also called to the extracts from subsequent reports given in the appendix, and to the memorial on this subject laid before the Legislature at the session of 1863.

The Trustees have never refused to receive any cases of alleged crime committed under the influence of insanity, for they have uniformly held that such persons were irresponsible and therefore could not be criminals; but they have held and still hold that persons who have led lives of crime, and when stopped in their career of crime, either feign insanity or actually become insane, are morally tainted so

that they are not proper persons to be placed with those who never knowingly violated any law of the land.

Neither can they see the force of the reasoning which would take these insane convicts out of one prison to place them in another simply because this latter might be on the grounds or in proximity to some hospital for the insane.

We doubt if the State would be justified in any such expense for twenty or thirty persons, particularly when it is borne in mind that such a building is liable to the great objection made against all detached wards or building on the grounds of hospitals for the insane, the greater difficulty of efficient supervision by the medical officers. It seems a contradiction in terms to place a building which needs the greatest amount of supervision and most thorough oversight at all times, where it can have least of that careful medical supervision which it is claimed is so much needed.

We believe that the true doctrine in regard to this class of insane convicts is expressed in the following resolutions, unanimously adopted by the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, in Baltimore in May, 1873:

*“Resolved, That neither the cells of the penitentiaries and jails, nor the wards of ordinary hospitals for the insane, are proper places for the custody and treatment of this class of the insane.*

*“Resolved, That when the number of this class in any State (or in any two or more adjoining States, which will unite for the purpose,) is sufficient to justify such a course, these cases should be placed in a hospital specially provided for them; and that, until this can be done, they should be treated in a hospital connected with some prison, and not in the wards or in separate buildings upon any part of the grounds of an ordinary hospital for the insane.”*

The whole trouble in this matter, of so many insane being in the jails and penitentiaries and poorhouses, arises from the fact that the people of Pennsylvania have not been roused to a proper understanding of their full duty to the insane until within a recent period, and since they have been aroused, they find the work so large that their finances will not allow them to push forward the work of providing the remedy as rapidly as the necessity of the case seems to demand.

This Board of Trustees have been urging this matter of increased provision for all classes of the insane for more than twenty years, and if the public authorities will not avail themselves of the provisions already made, or the members of the Legislature, to whom the

appeals have been made, fail to make increased provision, the fault cannot be laid, with any justice, on the Trustees of this Hospital.

We always have believed, and at no time more strongly than now, that all who have the best interest and true welfare of the insane really at heart, should unite all their efforts and energies to secure accommodations for all the recent and chronic cases in well regulated hospitals, and at the same time use their most earnest endeavors to make the condition of the insane in the poorhouses more comfortable, by striving to enlighten those, who have the charge of them, in the proper knowledge of their duty towards this most afflicted of all classes of disease to which mankind is liable.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

JOHN L. ATLEE, *President.*

JANUARY 20, 1874.





# APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

## EXTRACTS

FROM THE REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES AND THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD.

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- 1.—*Report as to the character of the patients to be admitted.*
  - 2.—*Extracts relative to additional provision for the insane poor.*
  - 3.—*Extracts relative to insane criminals.*
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*To the Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital:*

GENTLEMEN:—The committee to whom was referred the part of the Report of the Superintendent relating to the order of the admission of patients into the Institution, respectfully say that we have examined with care the Act of Assembly incorporating the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, to learn whether the Legislature intended that any class of patients should be entitled to a preference in the event of the Hospital not having sufficient accommodations for all the insane in the Commonwealth, who may desire to be admitted. The obvious meaning of the law makers in the creation of this eleemosynary Institution was to secure an Asylum for the Insane of this Commonwealth, giving a preference to those who were in indigent circumstances.

To prevent conflict among the future claimants for a participation in the benefits of the Institution, the Superintendent should promptly ascertain, as nearly as may be, by statistics and computation, the number of insane poor in the several counties of this Commonwealth, so that when the necessity arises, the admission of patients may be made to conform to the insane population in the several counties, as is provided by the statute.

The law made provision for the admission of persons, who on being charged with an offence and on their trial found by the Jury to be insane, and also for the admission of any such persons as any Court

of Record may commit to the Hospital because they are "unsafe to be at large," by reason of insanity,—and also all insane persons in indigent circumstances, and if there is any room for the accommodation of other patients, then all other insane persons in the State are admissible without regard to their worldly circumstances. A preference is given to the class of persons above mentioned.

They are to be cared for, even though it be to the exclusion of all others. Indigent insane persons are first entitled to admission, and if paying patients were admitted and subsequently an application should be made, the patient, if poor, would have to be received and provided for, even if it resulted in the removal of the paying patient. The enactment even goes so far, as to discriminate between indigent patients, requiring, if needs be, the rejection of cases of long standing, or even the removal of the patient, to make room for cases of recent origin.

In the future admission of patients the Superintendent will, as far as practicable, keep the above mentioned classification of beneficiaries in view, and whenever the number of indigent patients becomes so large, as to require all the accommodation and apartments in the Hospital, the Superintendent shall decline the admission, of the class denominated paying patients, and he shall report to the Board (when ever there is no room for the admission of other patients) all cases of long standing, that the Board may determine and pass on the propriety of the removal of such patients.

Your committee do not deem it necessary to report any resolution, as no emergency of the kind referred to can occur for some months, and therefore they ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. (Signed)

HAMILTON ALRICKS,  
A. J. JONES,  
THOS. S. KIRKBRIDE,

OCTOBER 14, 1858.

*Committee.*

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Report for 1854.—The time is then at hand for maturely considering this important subject. The monetary and moral condition of the country strongly predispose to increased application for admission; the capacity of this Institution being incapable of further extension, the trustees recommend the subject of a new structure in Western Pennsylvania, to the favorable consideration of the State authorities.

Report for 1855.—The Board of Trustees would, therefore, on the present occasion, renew their suggestions heretofore made, that steps should at once be taken for providing a new State institution for the insane west of the Alleghenies, as it must be obvious to all that the present Hospital can only for a short time meet the demands that will be made upon it from the central and eastern parts of the State. Pennsylvania, in common with most of her sister commonwealths, having commenced the noble work of providing accommodations for this peculiarly afflicted class of her citizens, cannot stop with buildings sufficient to receive only a portion of those who have equal claims on her bounty; and the intelligence and benevolence of her citizens cannot fail to regard with favor any expenditures required to effect this object in the most thorough and enlightened manner. Universal experience has clearly demonstrated that a very large proportion of the insane can be treated successfully only in institutions specially prepared for their reception, and the means employed are so different from those required for other diseases, that structures entirely distinct from those devoted to other purposes are indispensable, if the best results are to be obtained.

Report for 1857.—Under these circumstances, it is obvious that but a very short period can elapse before it will be necessary to make additional provision for that portion of our insane residing in the western portion of the State, and to many of whom the journey to Harrisburg is not only injurious, but the expense is much greater than if they could be accommodated near their own homes.

Report for 1858.—The complete filling up of the male wards has compelled the Board of Trustees to look forward to the very early period when they will be compelled by the law organizing the institution, to discriminate in the character of those who are received. As the law now stands they have no discretion in the matter. The indigent insane are always to have the preference, and recent cases are to be received before those of long standing, while the number from the different counties is to be in the ratio of their insane population. It is greatly to be regretted that there should ever be difficulty experienced, by any class of our citizens, in finding promptly, accommodations of the best kind for the treatment of this—one of the saddest of all human maladies. No argument ought to be required at the present day to prove that it is to the best interests of every State, to provide ample means of a high character for the cure and treatment of all her insane; to restore them to society and to usefulness, if that is possible, and if that may not be, at least to shield

them from a cruel exposure of their infirmities—to remove the worst feature of their disease, and to protect the community from the danger incident to such irresponsible persons being allowed to be at large.

An enlightened public sentiment in this State, having long since pronounced against the policy of having her insane provided for in private establishments, like those so common in other countries, it would seem only reasonable that the Legislature should make adequate provision for the accommodation of all who are so unfortunate as to require hospital treatment. Every one who is familiar with the care received by the insane in most county poorhouses, must be convinced that these receptacles are not the place for any portion of our fellow beings, who are suffering from a disease, which, more than any other, requires enlightened and humane treatment. No poorhouse can be a suitable place for the treatment of insanity, unless the number of patients is sufficiently large to justify their being placed under the immediate care of a properly qualified medical officer, with all the advantages of a modern hospital building and organization. Although the first cost of such arrangements are greater, the results will in the end prove more satisfactory to any enlightened community.

The first mode of relief to the central institution at the seat of government, which naturally suggests itself, is an increased provision for the insane in the western portion of the State, to which this Board has on other occasions made reference, and which they would again recommend to the favorable consideration of the proper authorities. The saving of a long journey to a sick patient, is an important consideration, and the economy of having the insane treated in institutions within a reasonable distance of their own homes, is self-evident.

Report for 1859.—The day is not far distant, however, when additional accommodations must be provided. The buildings now in progress near Pittsburg, will, when fully in use, prove highly advantageous to all that section of the Commonwealth, and the Board would urge upon the Executive and the Legislature the importance of their early completion, as one of the most obvious means for securing relief to the central institution at Harrisburg.

Report for 1860.—Having no doubt of the correctness of the principle, that it is not less the interest than the duty of every State to make ample provision for the custody and treatment of all her insane, in properly organized hospitals—that the best arrangements will always be found cheapest in the end—and that to secure the best



results and equal justice to all, the recent and chronic cases—for no one can say positively which are certainly curable or incurable—must be received into the same buildings, the Board feel it right that the actual present wants of the Commonwealth should be known to her citizens. Nor can they refrain from expressing the conviction, that sooner or later public sentiment will just as surely demand an adequate remedy, as that her people will cheerfully join in contributing the trifling amount of an additional tax that would be required from each, to secure effectual relief to those of our fellow-men who suffer from one of the saddest forms of affliction.

Report for 1861.—The only remedy for this state of things—and it is one which this Board believes to be called for, by every dictate of humanity and sound state policy—is to increase the provisions for the Insane, so that every one laboring under such an affliction, within the bounds of the Commonwealth, can be able to partake of the advantages which, at this time, can be given but to a portion of this class of sufferers. It is now so well established, that the most liberal provision for restoring the citizens of a state to sound mental health and usefulness, in a reasonable period of time, is vastly more economical than any arrangements, however humble their character, which look only to the permanent security and support of the same class, as incurable, that no further argument on this branch of the subject can be necessary. Many incurable cases cost the community more thousands of dollars than restored patients do hundreds, or parts of hundreds, while the latter become productive members of society. Nor is it less well settled, by universal experience, that, in a large majority of cases, insanity can be treated with the highest degree of success only in its early stages, and in institutions specially arranged for its treatment, with abundant provision for classification, occupation and amusement, under the direction of competent medical officers, and with a great variety of means and appliances that can hardly be got together but by the patronage of the State, or extraordinary efforts of private liberality. For these reasons there is good ground for doubting the wisdom or ultimate economy of the plans for county asylums for the Insane, to adopt which there has appeared to be a disposition of late, in some quarters—for there are few situations in which the number of cases will be large enough to justify a proper medical organization for their government, and without which there is always risk of their degenerating into simple receptacles for the safe-keeping of an afflicted class of our fellow beings, rather than curative institutions. Even if designed for those who are supposed



to be incurable, it may well be doubted whether there will not be ultimate loss, by separating them from the more recent cases; for what is required for the restoration of the latter, will always tend to prevent a lower mental and physical state in the former, and will now and then result in recoveries where least anticipated.

Report for 1864.—The most economical and efficient plan would be, for the Commonwealth to take this unfortunate portion of her citizens under her immediate protection, and from time to time to cause to be erected in proper situations, such buildings as would possess all the requisites for health and comfort, and be under the management of gentlemen distinguished for their skill in the treatment of the diseases of the mind. In the alms houses, many cases that are curable in their first stages, become chronic, and the unfortunate victim lingers on through years of wretchedness, a burthen on the country. In a State Hospital they would probably be restored to their families, and become again useful members of society.

Report for 1865.—It is therefore desirable that further provision should be made for the suitable accommodation and treatment of this suffering class of our fellow creatures. The immense benefit that has already been conferred by this Institution on those who would otherwise have been inmates of alms houses, is a strong inducement for the State to extend her bounty. The same reasons which induced a former Legislature to found this Hospital, will, it is hoped, be equally powerful with the present representatives of the people, to afford relief to those who have such strong claims on their sympathy as the unfortunate insane.

Report for 1868.—In former reports the Trustees have taken the liberty of urging the necessity of more extended provisions for the insane, and also of some special provision for the class denominated insane criminals. They feel themselves impelled to a reiteration of those arguments by the pressing urgency which has frequently, during the year, compelled them to consider the whole subject of admission into the Institution. They have no special theories to advance or to advocate; but they desire to consider the whole subject in a practical manner, and in the light of the experience forced upon them by each year's increase in the number of patients seeking admission into the Hospital.

If insanity can only be properly and successfully treated in Hospitals, specially constructed and organized for that purpose; if the earlier the treatment is commenced, the more certain is the prospect

of restoration ; if insanity depends, as is now admitted, on a disordered condition of the general system, requiring special and appropriate treatment ; if for the same money which will be required for the maintenance of one chronic insane person, two recent cases of insanity can be restored to health and usefulness, and thus the working and producing power of any community be increased, and not detracted from, it certainly seems the dictate of sound policy, as well as of enlightened christian civilization, to make such ample provision, that all, of every class, can, at the earliest period, avail themselves of the proper means for their restoration.

Report for 1870.—This Board is very decidedly of opinion, as expressed in their last report, that is the bounden duty of the State to make adequate provision for all those who cannot, by reason of insanity, take care of themselves, or who may be regarded as the wards of the Commonwealth. And this number includes a much larger class than at first sight might appear. All those, of every class and profession, who are obliged to depend upon their daily labor for their own support and that of their families, can generally manage very well, so long as sickness does not seize upon the heads of the family, or that member upon whom the others specially depend. But let that member be seized with insanity, and the family become dependent.

Report for 1871.—While this Board has urged these things in former years, it yet feels the subject to be of such paramount importance to the welfare and happiness of the insane, and also of the community at large, that it cannot discharge its whole duty without again stating its most earnest conviction, founded on the experience of late years, that every effort should be made to extend the hospital accommodation to those parts of the State where none now exists ; and thus give to those there residing the same opportunities which are enjoyed by those in the immediate vicinity of hospitals now existing. It must be obvious to every one, that no public authority can with justice discriminate in favor of any one class of its afflicted citizens, but that all should be allowed the same privileges, and have the same favors ; and among these must surely be reckoned the right of having provision made by which all who may become insane, may have the opportunity of receiving the best medical care and treatment which the science of the time will afford. No disease is more amenable to treatment, if taken in its earliest stages ; and no disease is more intractable and attended with greater risks to the families and the community after it has once become fixed.

Report for 1872.—The necessity for greatly increased hospital accommodation, has been so frequently urged in these reports for many years past, that nothing but the extreme urgency of the case could justify a reference to the subject at this time. With a steadily increasing population, it will be obvious that the number of the insane must also steadily increase; and as full provision has never yet been made for the proper accommodation of the actual number in the community at any given time, it must be apparent, on the least reflection, that until that point of the needed provision has been reached, there will be a large amount of suffering and distress in the community; suffering on the part of those who are afflicted with the severest disease to which man is subject, and distress on the part of relatives, friends and neighbors, that they cannot obtain that care, treatment and custody of the afflicted members which relieve them of alarm, anxiety and constant apprehension.

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Report for 1852.—In the last report of the Board of Trustees, allusion was made to various insane persons confined in the jails and penitentiaries of the Commonwealth. Since that time, a commission, provided for by an act of the last Legislature, has been in session at the Eastern Penitentiary, near Philadelphia, and their report has been transmitted to the proper authority, preparatory to a transfer of certain individuals therein named, to the State Hospital. While this board believe that those recommended for transfer may be safely received into the State Hospital, they also fully concur in opinion with the commission just referred to, that there is a class of extremely dangerous men who have attempted to take life either when in a state of insanity, or who have become insane after the commission of high crimes, and who still retain their homicidal propensities in a marked degree, that no circumstances can justify in being placed among the ordinary insane in a hospital, nor in having the whole community exposed to the dangers that would be likely to result from their escape. Some of this class have spent many years in prisons, and are often noted as successful prison-breakers, so that the wards of an ordinary hospital can scarcely be expected to retain them securely. It may become an important question, hereafter to be determined by the wisdom of the Legislature, whether buildings shall be put up expressly for this dangerous class in proximity to the State Hospital, or whether the ends of justice and humanity, with a

due regard to the security of the community, may not for the present be attained by providing certain arrangements expressly for this class within the walls of the penitentiary.

Report for 1853.—The commission provided for by an act of the Legislature of 1852, recommended that eight of the insane convicts then confined in the Eastern State Penitentiary, should be transferred to this Institution, and the report of that body having been approved by the Executive, these individuals were received in February last. Although understood to be among the least objectionable of those offered for examination by the commission, most of them have proved very undesirable patients for this Institution, and in spite of the utmost vigilance, four of them have escaped and have not since been heard of.

This Board have confidence that the commission referred to, will not, without due deliberation, send any convicts here, but at the same time they are more fully convinced than ever, that a proper regard to the best interests of the community, and the welfare of the patients in the State Lunatic Hospital, requires that such provision should be made for the dangerous class of Insane prisoners, within the walls of the Penitentiary, as will secure to them all the benefits of proper treatment, answering fully every claim of humanity and justice, without unduly exposing their innocent fellow-citizens to injury.

Report for 1855.—During the year just closed, no convicts have been received from the penitentiaries of the State. The experience of this Board continues to be very decided, that unless a distinct building is provided—and which, after all, must have more the character of a prison than a modern hospital—very few cases of this description can, with justice to the other patients, or safety to the community, be received into an institution which admits all classes of the insane. It is really much easier to provide a small hospital ward for insane convicts within the walls of a prison, than to convert into a prison the wards of a well regulated hospital for the insane; and the restrictions to which this particular class must necessarily be subjected in the latter, are greater than would be required in a good prison enclosure.

With the utmost vigilance that could be used, several of the insane convicts received here from the Eastern Penitentiary have escaped, and none of them have been recovered; so that with other evils, the community are left exposed to a class of men who, without being responsible for their actions, are often particularly dangerous in their propensities.



Report for 1858.—During the past year, seven patients have been received from the penal institutions of the State. Enlarged experience in reference to this class of cases, confirms this Board in their opinions, given on previous occasions, that it can very rarely be justifiable, to introduce into a hospital for the insane, and intended for the reception of all classes of our fellow-citizens, individuals convicted of crimes, and who have become insane after entering a prison, or persons of a dangerous character, who have been acquitted of high charges on the ground of insanity. Many of these are at all times dangerous to those about them—often distinguished for their ingenuity in house-breaking, and on many accounts peculiarly undesirable in a community of persons who have never been exposed to such associations. Cases of this kind are almost certain to escape, and are rarely recovered, so that the whole community have a right to ask that they shall not be exposed to the dangers incident to their being at liberty. Proper provision for the care and treatment of such cases should be made within the prison walls, or as has been done in a neighboring State, a building properly arranged should be prepared for this specific purpose in immediate proximity to one of our penitentiaries, and to which all suitable cases should be promptly sent, and retained till cured of their insanity, for it could never have been intended that an attack of sickness occurring in prison, should relieve a convict of any portion of his sentence.

Report for 1859.—Every year adds to the convictions of this Board of the correctness of these views: and all whose necessities compel them to resort to this institution for relief, and the citizens of the State generally, must feel the impolicy and injustice of compelling those who are only unfortunate, to mingle with individuals whose irregular lives or evil propensities had made them tenants of our penal institutions. A suitable Hospital building, made properly secure, but still not a prison, erected within the boundary walls of our penitentiaries, or in immediate proximity to it, and placed under the care of a competent medical officer, would not only add to the accommodations of the State Hospital, by taking from it all belonging to the class referred to, but would meet all the requirements of humanity, by giving to those suffering from insanity, about all the advantages they now possess, and relieving the ordinary insane from what cannot but be regarded as a serious evil.

Report for 1861.—There is another class, for whom no adequate accommodations have yet been provided in Pennsylvania. Insane criminals form no inconsiderable number in any large community—



their general character, their modes of life, and the certain results of vicious habits—make it natural that the ratio of mental disease should be greater among them than in the honest portion of society; and although the proportion of them in our State is quite as small as in the adjoining ones, there are still enough to justify some special provision being made for their care and treatment. Careful reflection can hardly fail to satisfy any inquirer, that these individuals should not be indiscriminately mixed with the cases that come from the highest and best, as well as the humblest, but honest, among our citizens; and experience has shown that something more than the arrangements proper for a modern Hospital for the Insane, is required to protect the community from a class that often embraces men of the most desperate and dangerous character. These may be provided for in a building specially constructed for the purpose, either on the grounds of one of our penal institutions or adjacent thereto, or on such other site as might be deemed more appropriate. The points to be kept steadily in view, are, that criminals, even when insane, are not to be associated with ordinary patients, and that the buildings in which they are confined should have special architectural arrangements, which, while giving every opportunity for treatment, will also effectually provide for their security and the protection of the community.

Report for 1862.—But there is still a link in the chain of improvement which is defective, and this Board, again, feel it a solemn duty to call the attention of our Executive and Legislature to a subject which we have laid before them on several previous occasions, one with which not only this Board has been deeply impressed as a matter of serious import, but those having charge of public hospitals for the insane all over the world. We refer to proper and special provisions for *insane criminals*.

It is the conviction of all those upon whom devolves the responsible duty of having the charge and treatment of the insane, that the reception and detention of this class of cases, who have been guilty of high crimes, such as arson, homicide, &c.,—who have been convicted and become subsequently insane, or have been acquitted upon the grounds or plea of insanity,—are not only detrimental to the desirable ends of an ordinary hospital for the insane, in rendering the lives of other patients insecure, and the buildings themselves unsafe; and attaching a moral odium to the hospital, by compelling the simple-minded, virtuous and spotless unfortunates—the mother, husband, wife or child of respectable citizens—to mingle with and be subjected

to the tainting influences of the condemned felon, whose natural or diseased inclinations are prominently vicious, and characteristic of evil and depraved habits. But, added to all this, there are other considerations which render it absolutely necessary that there should be special provisions made for insane criminals. The great aim in the construction of our modern hospitals for the insane, is to make them a heartsome, inviting and agreeable home for this unfortunate class of human beings: so that friends and patients may be relieved of that repulsiveness and reluctance to placing one of the beloved of their family in an insane hospital. Consequently, they are disrobed of all the old prison-like appearances and arrangements that characterized the less modern establishments of this kind. And it is impossible to retain securely, and with comfort, the class of patients who may be sent them from the court room or penitentiary, as their proclivities for exercising and repeating the dangerous bents of their peculiar, characteristic tendencies, are remarkably universal.

The retention of this class of unfortunates in a jail or penitentiary for safe keeping, on the other hand, deprives them of the benefit of that humane treatment, both moral and medical, which is the only hope for their restoration to a sound state of mind.

There should be a moderate sized hospital erected, in some eligible situation, and constructed on such a plan as to be in every way adapted to the class of patients above referred to. It should be surrounded by a substantial inclosure, the rooms and furniture of such a character as to resist the rough treatment they may be subjected to, and to render everything out of danger from the incendiary; proper means devised for physical exercise and edifying mental employment; with, of course, a capable physician and attendant.

Report for 1864.—No provision has been made for Insane Criminals, other than the Prison affords. While it would not *only* be *injudicious*, but *cruel*, to make these persons the associates of the virtuous; unquestionably some proper asylum should be provided for them, where they would receive that kind and appropriate attention, by which they might be restored to their reason. It would be vain to expect reformation, where reason has lost her balance.

Report for 1865.—The want of a Hospital for the Insane who have been convicted of, or charged with criminal offences, is severely felt. The subject is commended to your favorable consideration.

Report for 1868.—In other countries, and in some States of this Union, special provision has been made for the insane criminals. For

those acquitted of the highest crimes on the ground of insanity, it seems imperatively demanded by the best interests of the community, and their freedom from risk to life and property, that that class should be more securely confined, and kept from opportunities of escape, than can be done in the wards of any Hospital for the insane, without serious detriment to the discipline of the Hospital, and to the highest welfare of the other inmates. In no way can this object be so well secured, as by the erection of wards specially appropriated to this class, within the walls of our penitentiaries, where they can have the benefit of medical care; the custody they require can be more certainly obtained, and the community can feel that any efforts to escape will be much less likely to be successful.

The number in the State is not now large enough to justify the expense which would be incurred in the erection and maintenance of an institution specially designed for that class.

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*The Memorial of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital respectfully represents :*

The most extended experience and observation have conclusively shown that in the arrangements of a Hospital for the Insane and all its surroundings, special care should be taken to present the most attractive scenes, and to remove everything which may tend to create and foster unpleasant impressions and associations.

A site is selected with cheerful and agreeable views of natural scenery, and all the attractions which art and cultivation can give are added. The building is arranged so as to give security with the least appearance of restraint, and every effort is made to impart to the wards a cheerful, homelike aspect, with every means which can be made available for engaging the attention and diverting the mind from its own morbid fancies to objects of interest, amusement and instruction.

The classification is so made as to place those who may be most nearly alike in the character of their disorder in the same society, and every effort is made to remove those who may be discordant, or who exert an injurious influence on others by their conversation, their habits, or the peculiarities of their disorder.

No more mistaken idea can be entertained than to hold that because a man is insane, he can exert no injurious influence over the minds of

other insane persons. Incalculable injury, often the confirmed condition of insanity, has been produced by the perverse and malicious misrepresentations of those whose minds appear only slightly disordered. In this view, the confinement in a Hospital for the Insane, designed for the accommodation of a community of those who have been acquitted of high crimes on the ground of insanity, or whose insanity may have followed a long continued course of criminal indulgence, which brings them within the pale of the law, has a very prejudicial influence on the minds of those whose insanity has arisen from disordered health or domestic calamity. Constant conversation on a course of life ending in punishment by the law, with all the details of such a course of conduct, grates very harshly on the sensitive feelings of those who have always striven to lead a correct and virtuous life; and the association cannot but be hurtful to this latter class, and forms a strong argument for the separate confinement of those who may have been acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity, or who, having committed crime, afterwards become insane. No one desires to have a friend or relative placed in a position where they shall be compelled to associate with those whom they would sedulously shun in private life, and no community has a right to insist on such association.

In addition to this, the safety and general welfare of the community require that those who have rendered themselves obnoxious to punishment by the violation of law, should be prevented from the opportunity of a repetition of the like offences.

This principle is constantly recognized in the prisons and other institutions of a penal character, and one step farther is required to comprehend all that class of insane who may have committed homicide, arson or other high crimes. If insane at the time of the commission of any such crime, the greater necessity arises for proper provision for their careful treatment and detention. It is manifestly unjust that the innocent and harmless should have their lives jeopardized by having among them, in their helpless and dependent condition, one as irresponsible as themselves, but at the same time having a strong homicidal disposition; or that the same class should be exposed to the attempts of one whose whole thoughts were bent on setting fire to the building in which they were confined. To keep persons of such dangerous propensities strictly confined in the wards of an ordinary Hospital for the Insane, exerts a prejudicial influence on the discipline of the Institution—converts the Hospital to that extent



into a prison for safe keeping, and is unjust to the individuals themselves, as it prevents that degree of liberty, which they might be permitted to enjoy in an Institution specially arranged for such a class.

Every instinct of humanity and justice prompts to the establishment of an Institution specially designed for what has been termed "Insane Criminals." In an ordinary prison or penitentiary they are denied the treatment which their case seems to require, and to which, as members of the community, with disordered mental and physical health, they are entitled; and in a Hospital for the Insane they are looked upon with distrust and aversion, and their influence in whatever point of view regarded, is injurious to the other insane with whom they are brought in contact.

The establishment of an Institution specially appropriated to Insane Criminals is no experiment. It has been fully tried and found to give entire satisfaction in Ireland, the Central Asylum at Dundrum, near Dublin, having been eleven years in operation. The English Government have been so thoroughly convinced of the necessity and propriety of such an establishment, that they have erected one on a large scale for 600 inmates, within a few miles of London. A similar Institution has been in operation in Canada; and in the state of New York, the evils attending the confinement of this class in the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, were so great, that an Institution was erected at Auburn, specially designed for their accommodation, and this has now been in operation for several years, and has satisfactorily fulfilled the objects of its erection—the relief of the Asylum at Utica, the greater security of the community, and the better classification and accommodation of the insane criminals themselves.

There are in Pennsylvania at this period, between fifty and one hundred dangerous insane criminals, for whom the strictest custodial care is required. They are scattered over the Commonwealth—in jails and in the penitentiaries, and nearly, if not quite all, are of the class whose insanity is of many years' continuance. They cannot be accommodated in the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital without manifest injustice to others, whose insanity is of recent occurrence, and who by law are required to be received into the Hospital, and the association is most repugnant to those who are at this time, or who may be hereafter, under treatment in that Hospital.

In a prison they cannot receive that care, attention and treatment which their disorder demands, and it seems to be demanded by the necessity of the case that a separate institution, such as those erected



in other places for their special accommodation,—with all the appurtenances of the best Hospitals for the Insane, at the same time all the security which the community have a right to demand, and which no ordinary Hospital can give without changing, in a measure, its character as a medical institution,—should be erected in accordance with the enlightened philanthropic sentiments of the time.

Such a building requires to be constructed in the most substantial manner, of the very best materials, with special regard to the violent and dangerous character of most of its inmates, with a farm and garden attached, on which many may be employed, and thus add to their health and improvement. It should be constructed with the view of accommodating, from the commencement, at least one hundred patients, with the requisite number of officers and attendants, and so designed that, should occasion require, additions may be made at a future time, without impairing the general plan of the building, or materially adding to the expense of its management.

It should be in the country, within convenient distance of a railroad station, so as to be easy of access, and for the procuring, with the greatest facility and at the least cost of transportation, of all the supplies which would be required.

In order to arrive at more definite conclusions on this important subject, your memorialists would respectfully suggest, that the Governor be empowered to appoint a commission of three persons to examine, select and procure a site, and to prepare the plan of a building most conformable to the present knowledge on the subject; and that said commission receive no compensation except their actual expenses while engaged in this duty.

GEORGE DOCK, M. D.,

*President of the Board of Trustees.*

JOHN H. BRIGGS,

*Secretary of the Board of Trustees.*